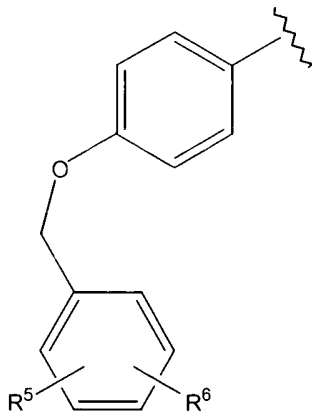


In th Claims:

Claims 16-20 remain pending and at issue in this application. Claims 1-15 and 21-23 were canceled by the August 19, 2002 Amendment after Final. By this amendment, claims 16 and 19 are amended, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121. Thus, the following section identifies the status of all claims presented during prosecution of this application, as well as the current form of pending claims 16-20:

1. Canceled
2. Canceled
3. Canceled
4. Canceled
5. Canceled
6. Canceled
7. Canceled
8. Canceled
9. Canceled
10. Canceled
11. Canceled
12. Canceled
13. Canceled
14. Canceled
15. Canceled

16. (Four times amended) A method for treating a medical condition of the type that is characterized by the destruction of articular cartilage in a human subject; wherein said medical condition comprises joint injury, reactive arthritis, acute pyrophosphate arthritis (pseudogout), psoriatic arthritis, osteoarthritis or juvenile rheumatoid arthritis; [in a mammalian subject,] which method comprises administering to the subject having said condition a therapeutically effective amount of a carboxylic acid hydroxamide derivative having a molecular weight of under 2000 grams/mole, wherein said derivative comprises the following substituent:



wherein R⁵ and R⁶ are independent substituents in the ortho, meta, or para positions and are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, cyano, methyl, and ethyl, and

the carboxylic acid hydroxamide derivative exhibits an aggrecanase IC₅₀ of less than about 20 nM, said aggrecanase IC₅₀ measured by an aggrecanase chondrocyte assay.

17. (Unamended) The method according to claim 16, wherein the aggrecanase IC₅₀ is less than about 10 nM.

18. (Unamended) The method according to claim 16, wherein the carboxylic acid hydroxamide derivative exhibits a collagenase-1 IC₅₀ of greater than about 200 nM, said collagenase-1 IC₅₀ measured by a recombinant collagenase-1 assay.

19. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein the carboxylic acid hydroxyamide derivative exhibits a collagenase-3 IC₅₀ of [greater] less than about 20 nM, said collagenase-3 IC₅₀ measured by a recombinant collagenase-3 assay.

20. (Unamended) The method according to claim 19, wherein the carboxylic acid hydroxamide derivative exhibits a TACE IC₅₀ of less than about 40 μ M, said TACE IC₅₀ measured by a TACE whole blood assay.

21. Canceled

22. Canceled

23. Canceled